



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$117K GRANT FOR RIVERHEAD SCHOOLS

Will Fund New District Wide Emergency Response and Safety Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC-Congressman Tim Bishop announced today that the Riverhead Central School District would receive a \$116,985 grant to improve school safety. The grant comes from the United States Department of Education's Emergency Response Plans for School Safety Initiative Program. Riverhead's administrators applauded the federal grant, which they note will assist ongoing efforts to improve security and will greatly assist in an emergency situation.

"I am proud of the Riverhead School District for their proactive approach to protecting the health and safety of its students," Bishop stated. "This grant will provide parents, students and school personnel with the resources they need to prepare and respond to all phases of emergencies and situations. The protection of the student body must be the priority of any school district, and the Riverhead community should be pleased with their administration for putting the welfare of our children first."

Paul Doyle, the Riverhead Superintendent of Schools noted that this new grant comes at a very important time. The Board of Education voted recently to authorize a local company to do a security audit that will analyze needs for the district's buildings and athletic fields.

"This grant will go a long way to help our efforts to improve safety and security for our kids," Paul Doyle, Superintendent of Schools, said. "Congressman Bishop has been a partner to make our school district safer. We thank him for his continued assistance."

The Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant (ERCM) Program provides support to school districts to improve and strengthen school emergency response and crisis management plans, including training school personnel and students in emergency response procedures.

According the Department of Education, the district is now responsible for implementing a plan that addresses the four phases of crisis response planning (Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery) and training for personnel and students. The plan must also be coordinated with local law enforcement, public safety, public health and mental health organizations. Furthermore, the school district must create a plan for communicating school emergency response policies and reunification procedures to parents and guardians. The school will also coordinate its efforts with New York State's Homeland Security Plans and support the implementation of the National Incident Management System. Additionally, the Riverhead Central School District will take into consideration the communication, transportation, and medical needs of individuals with disabilities in their school district. The grant will expire in March 2007.

"Now more than ever, there can be no such thing as too prepared," Bishop added. "We must always be ready for the unimaginable."

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